MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 13, 2026
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board meeting was called to order by President Smith at approximately at 12:07 p.m. Present were Directors, Chuck Turner, Jason Bolin (via zoom), Secretary-Manager Travis Okelberry, H.R. Safety Program Manager Mandy Burkett, Administrative Assistant Laurie Beth Hood, Administrative Assistant in training Caroline Risley, Todd Hunziker of Jacobs, Brittany Hughes of Jacobs (via zoom), Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer (via zoom), and Randy Adams.

There were 2 visitors via zoom: Michael Miller, who did not answer when called upon, and Paul Hatfield who expressed interest on working on the canal project.

President Smith requested Secretary-Manager Okelberry to administer the Oath of Office to Randy Adams whom the Yakima County Commissioners appointed to take Dan Keller's place on the board. The Oath of Office was administered to Randy Adams.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed, to approve the following consent items:

a. Approve August 13, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda
b. Review/Approve July14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
c. Review/Approve June 23, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes
d. Payroll for July 2026 - $145,281.70

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed, to approve the following consent item for the regular Bills for July 2026-$245,772.47.

Secretary Manager Okelberry presented the budget explanation. Investments are performing better than forecast, tools and equipment are under budget, and professional fees under the Main Canal line item are significantly over budget at $712,000. A reimbursement of approximately $826,000 is expected from Ecology. Accounting fees are over budget because an in-house accounting position has not yet been filled.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed, to approve the water transfers:

SHARES TRANSFER	*EXISTING SHARES*	*TRANSFERRED SHARES*	*RESULTING SHARES*
FROM: 171314-33422 *Kenneth & Andrea Emshoff*	*7.6*	*-2.00*	*5.6*
TO: 171304-31402 *Jenna Kivi*	*0.00*	*+2.00*	*2.00*

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to approve Resolution 2026-6, a federal procurement policy.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed, to approve authorization of D26-102 which authorizes Secretary-manager Okelberry and Assistant Manager Boyd as representatives of Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District to execute contracts, certify completion of projects, request payments, and prepare all required documentation for funding requirements.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed, to ratify the approval for emergency HVAC repairs for the back-office air conditioning unit. The repairs were under $500 and needed with high temperatures.

The NFCCR cattle grazing lease from last month's agenda was brought up again and it was the consensus of the board to discuss this matter further in the executive session of the meeting.

H.R. Safety Program Manager Report: Mandy Burkett provided the following updates:

1. An offer has been extended for the assistant treasurer position. The applicant is expected to start September 1, 2026, pending completion of drug and alcohol screening.

2.A maintenance position has opened and has been posted. Applicants review and interviews are expected to begin soon.

3.All Board members have completed their OPMA certifications except newly appointed Director Adams, who will receive the information needed to begin the process.

Secretary Manager Report: Travis Okelberry provided the following updates:

1. DNR has decided to increase IFPL from level 3 to 4 beginning Sunday August 16,2026 at 9pm which is the highest alert. There is currently work being done in the canyon, which will have to stop by the deadline. Crews have been authorized to work overtime on Saturday to get as much done as possible. Possibly a waiver could allow for minimal work but unknown all the rules and regulations if a waiver is approved. We will need to define what is allowed. DNR has expressed concerns about the optics of the work being done at this time with dust mimicking smoke to people passing by and calling in fires. It also needs to be decided if equipment needs to be removed or can be left there if levels change.

2. Manager Okelberry reported proration increased from 56% to 58% with a "reasonable chance" of seniors receiving water in October.

3. There have been ongoing weekly meetings with Reclamation Project Manager Ben Miller. He requested a spreadsheet with all category 1 items and how they will all be addressed.

4. A wooden bridge on WDFW land has been deemed unsafe, although the public currently has access to it. The bridge is the only access point to one of the areas where crews are presently working. Reclamation will determine ownership and responsibility for the bridge. Because this presents a liability concern, President Smith suggested gating the bridge for YTID access only until ownership is confirmed. The Board also discussed adding handrails and posting "YTID Access Only" signs.

5. Secretary-Treasurer Okelberry reported that the Department of Reclamation must approve all projects and steps moving forward. This requirement may affect project timelines, permitting, and the proposed pilot project.

6. The Board discussed whether the pilot project should proceed and considered possible next steps. One option discussed was targeting Fall 2027, which would allow additional time to develop a plan, obtain Reclamation approval, secure permits, and order materials.

7. Secretary Treasurer Okelberry recommended to the board to start planning for Fall 2027 to tackle the emergency repairs and stabilization of the canal with a bigger pilot project at that time. The matter was tabled and will be discussed at a Special Board Meeting on August 20, 2026.

8. Manager discussed meeting with Reclamation Principal Deputy Commissioner, Aubrey Bettencourt. Shared concerns with Reclamation processes and impacts to project momentum and overall support.

Jacob's Engineering Report: Todd Hunziker & Brittany Hughes

Todd explained that the pilot project (TO21) is intended to determine whether metal pipe can be installed in the canal. He expressed concern that ordering costly materials before confirming feasibility could result in a loss if the approach does not work. He also recommended using an experienced contractor for the first phase, rather than selecting solely based on the lowest bid.

Todd and Brittany will continue reviewing the options already discussed and will also consider possible alternatives. Ultimately, Secretary-Treasurer Okelberry and the Board will decide how to proceed. Director Bolin requested that Secretary-Treasurer Okelberry prepare a public outreach letter explaining the discussions and informing the public that the District is working on canal solutions.

At approximately 2:20 p.m., President Smith declared that the Board would go into Executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (i) and RCW 42.30.110 (iii), to discuss with legal counsel matters relating to agency enforcement actions, litigation, or potential litigation, and legal risks of proposed actions or current practices, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The duration of this executive session would be approximately 30 minutes until 2:50 p.m. The meeting was extended via public announcement for 10 minutes to 3:00 p.m. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the executive session ended.

After the Executive Session, a motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed, to authorize Secretary Treasurer Okelberry to compose a letter to YBIP.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Adams and passed to authorize Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer to engage Jeremiah Sen on work matters.

It was the consensus of the board after the Executive Session that Secretary Treasurer Okelberry move forward with the YTID- Cattle Grazing Lease.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m. by President Smith.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER